



The Montgomery County RECYCLETTER

January/February 2001

Number 55

Consider Composting

Some people are wild about dirt. These are the gardeners, organic farmers, composters, and others who appreciate fine soil and the things that can grow in it. The soil of the Ukraine is supposed to be the richest in the world. The "bread basket" of North America is our Midwestern prairie heartland. These areas have rich dark soil full of organic matter (humus) in various stages of decomposition.

Here in Maryland we have clay soil. If you're a gardener, you know that getting rid of clay is difficult and may be unrealistic. Trying to improve it with commercially available compost and topsoil can be prohibitively expensive. So, one can mimic Nature's method of improving soil. We call it composting.

Nature has all the time in the world to make soil, but a gardener doesn't. However, you can make your own compost and add it to your garden soil until year after year it accumulates and dilutes the clay. After enough years you can have soil as rich as the legendary earth of the Ukraine. Composting is easy, but you never seem to

be able to make enough of it. Still, it's never too late to start making compost and improving your soil.

Consider setting a goal to remove enough grass from your property so that an old-fashioned push mower can handle the little bit of lawn you will have left. Trees and shrubs and flower gardens provide more oxygen and wildlife habitat than a vast expanse of grass. All your new plantings will benefit from the addition of compost to the soil. But even for those people in love with a grassy lawn, compost applied to the yard can improve the soil's water-holding ability and provide food for the grass plants that can grow so thickly that weeds will be discouraged and fertilizer will not be needed.

It doesn't matter if you have a fancy compost bin, a wire enclosure, or a heap. Compost needs only five things: carbon-rich matter, nitrogen-rich matter, air, water, and microorganisms (which are in the air and are abundantly available in a shovelful of average soil). A pile of only nitrogen-rich summer grass will decompose, as will a pile of only carbon-rich fall leaves. But put them

together and you have the setting of a feast for microorganisms. The pile will heat up, potentially to a temperature of 140 degrees or more. The organic matter in a hot pile will decay, and that large heap of material will be reduced to about one quarter of its original volume. When it cools down and is crumbly soil, with some matter left to decay, then you have compost. This is when earthworms and their insect friends come to the pile to eat. They help make the compost even better. And just as there are microorganisms that thrive at the high temperatures of active decomposition, there are others that work only when the compost heap cools down.

Air is important to a compost pile. Water is essential. A dry pile does little decomposing, so keep the compost pile moist, and turn it whenever you can to disperse the water, air, and microorganisms. Shredding organic matter into small pieces enables bacteria to feed on the edges of many small pieces and hastens decomposition. Shredding is always beneficial to compost production. There are methods of producing com-

(Continued on Page 4)

Behind the Scenes 2001

Curious about what happens to your recyclables? Ever wondered about the inner workings of the Solid Waste Transfer Station, the County Composting Facility, or the Resource Recovery Facility? And what's this about a landfill? Didn't the County stop using it a few years ago? The answers to these and many other solid waste and recycling questions await the participants of our free 6-week "Behind the Scenes" course.

"Behind the Scenes" is open to anyone interested in learning about the day-to-day operations of the Division of Solid Waste Services. The course will be held on Thursday evenings at the Solid Waste Transfer Station from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. beginning March 1, 2001. (Feel free to bring your dinner!) Classroom presentations and discussions will be coupled with field trips to Solid Waste facilities. Representatives of homeowners' associa-

(Continued on Page 4)

Inside This Issue...

Leafgro®	3
Compost Bins for Sale	3
Chipped Brush as Mulch	4
Vermiculture 101	5
Color Me Confused	5
Calendar of Events	8

News Brief



Office Paper Systems Tour Scheduled: Our first two tours of the Office Paper Systems plant were excellent with both CEO Kevin Stearman, and Director of Business Development, Brian Ryerson, explaining operations. Now, one more tour is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. The tour is open to all volunteers, plus their family and friends. For those who want to carpool we will meet at the Recycling Center (MRF) at 9:30 a.m. These tours are very interesting and informative. We hope you can join us. Please call the MR/C Volunteer Program office at 301-840-2852 to sign up.



Upcounty Volunteer Opportunity: Now that all of our "toters" for mixed paper recycling have been distributed in three neighborhoods of single family homes, and this experiment is underway and going full speed ahead, we are going to try something new. As many of you realize, townhouse and multifamily residences are not recycling quite as much paper as we think they could. There are many reasons given for this, not the least of which is that space for storage is a problem. So, in an effort to make recycling easier, we are going to start a new pilot program in Germantown. On a still-to-be-determined Saturday in January, we need volunteers to canvass the area by going door-to-door to explain the program. This can be a very rewarding experience as the citizens of Montgomery County are very supportive of recycling, and seem to appreciate the personal attention provided in a home visit. For our volunteers who live in Gaithersburg, Damascus, Poolesville, Barnesville, Boyds and, of course, Germantown, this is an opportunity to reach out in your part of the county. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Jim Welch or Claire Agoglia at the MR/C Volunteer Program at 301-840-2852, or e-mail us at mrc@windsor.com.



Help Wanted: The Master Recycler/Composter Volunteer Program is looking for an Assistant Manager. This position is available immediately. Candidates need to be very flexible with their time, able to work an occasional evening, when necessary, and a Saturday or Sunday three out of four weekends a month. This is a full time position, but can be part time provided Tuesdays and Thursdays and a weekend day are covered. Availability in mid-August for the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair is essential. Knowledge of recycling issues is desirable but enthusiasm and interest can substitute for experience. For more information and/or an interview, contact Jim Welch or Claire Agoglia at 301-840-2852 or e-mail us at mrc@windsor.com.



Used Clothing Drop-off: Zerodestruction, a charitable organization operated by one of our Master Recycler volunteers is in the process of collecting usable clothing for the homeless. Any item of usable clothing can be donated. Items should be wearable, clean and dry. Warm items for winter are especially needed at this time. Items can be dropped off in a large yellow bin located to the left of the front of the Raymond E. Poole General Store at 16315 Old River Road, Poolesville, Maryland.

Donations can be made from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. For more information about this program contact Liz Bullock's voice mail at 1-800-941-7846. Leave a thirty second message and she will get back to you. Liz extends her thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Poole for sponsoring this project and providing space for the drop-off bin.

Mission Statement

The Montgomery County Master Recycler/Composter Volunteer Program, a part of the Department of Public Works and Transportation, Division of Solid Waste Services, encourages environmental stewardship through its public outreach on waste prevention, reuse and recycling. Volunteers provide County residents with practical solutions to their waste-related concerns. In educating themselves and others, MR/C volunteers stimulate thoughtful and effective action towards sound environmental practices which protect our shared environment and help the County achieve its goal of 50% recycling.

**Jim Welch,
Editor-in-Chief**

**Diane Reinke,
Editor**

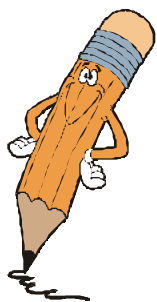
**Mickey O'Bradovich,
Layout**

Published by the Master Recycler/Composter Volunteer Program, Montgomery County Government, Department of Public Works and Transportation, Division of Solid Waste Services.

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A Note to You



The year 2001 has arrived. I thought that by now we would be living in cities under the oceans and in colonies on the moon. I thought that the whole world would be well fed on protein pills and that "peace would guide the planets and love would steer the stars." But really nothing has changed with the new year, decade, or century. We made it through the year 2000, and the Millennium Bug didn't bite. My computer continues to function, and there was no return to the Stone Age. Life goes on as it has, and hope for the survival of the natural world remains. The future looks as though it will be a lot like the present if we manage it well.

You might ask, "What does all this have to do with recycling?" Well, those of us who care enough to recycle, reuse what we can, and reduce the amount of trash we generate are the unsung heroes in a valiant effort to keep the green world alive. Recycling paper saves forests from cutting. Recycling and remanufacturing steel, aluminum, glass, and plastic keeps mineral resources intact in undisturbed ground. Disposing of hazardous waste properly keeps the air and water clean for humans and all other life.

As volunteers promoting recycling, reuse, and reduction, we must stop "preaching to the choir," as the saying goes, and get out there and challenge that person who doesn't sing. Our influence can bring the disinterested around to see that one person doesn't have the right to litter, pollute, and threaten the health and safety of the rest of us. We all can do better, but if even one out of a hundred people pours used motor oil down a storm drain, everyone suffers the consequences. We have to spread the word. We have to get out there and speak, persuade, influence, convince, win over, and change the behavior of those who do not recycle. This will not be easy. What is easy, though, is recycling. Once it becomes a habit, it's especially easy!

Let's commit to reaching out to bring others around. If 100 percent of us recycled all we could, then we'd reach 50 percent recycling of our trash in no time. And from that point, we can take it further. This is one thing everyone should be able to agree on. Recycling, reuse, and reduction are good for the environment, and what is good for the environment is good for you and for me. And I expect that when I buy my new house on the moon, the NASA folks will recycle all the stuff they left up there.

Compost Bins for Sale

Montgomery County sells a simple compost bin to the public at a bargain price less than the wholesale cost. These bins are made in the USA, primarily from recycled postconsumer/industrial materials. They are sturdy, weatherproof, and easy to assemble. The round bin is 3 feet in diameter and low enough that a person of average height can easily reach into and turn the pile with a pitchfork. They are available at the following government centers:

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Services Center at 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, 301-986-4325;

Upcounty Regional Services Center at 12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown, 240-777-8000;

Eastern Montgomery Services Center at 13436 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, 301-989-1230;

Midcounty Services Center at 2424 Reedie Drive, Wheaton, 240-777-8100.

They are also available in Rockville at the Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Sixth Floor, 240-777-6400, and the offices of the MR/CVP at the Solid Waste Transfer Station at 16101 Frederick Road, Derwood, 301-840-2852. The price is \$5 a bin. Please call first to find out office times and to confirm bin availability.

Leafgro® - Improving Maryland's Soils, One and One Half Cubic Feet at a Time

Many people in the county are "grasscycling" these days. Some use mulching mowers, which shred the grass finely and have no discharge chute. Some people use old-style mowers and simply leave the grass clippings where they land on the lawn. Some people compost grass and leaves. They keep the organic waste of their yard in their yard. But Montgomery County composts yard waste for those folks who choose to use curbside pick up.

In Dickerson, in the northwestern corner of our county, there is a splendid composting facility. Yard waste is placed in huge windrows, long and high, and turned by a curious machine, which rides over the rows, a wheel on either side, and shreds and mixes the organic matter beneath. Summer grass is added to fall leaves, and the shredding and turning continue. When the compost is ready for use, it is dried, screened, packaged, and sold. You will find it under the registered trade name Leafgro®.

This is the kind of stuff that can make a Master Composter drool with delight. Leafgro® is commercial compost of excellent quality. Added to the sandy soils of the Eastern Shore or the clay soils of the Piedmont, organic compost improves moisture and nutrient-holding capacity and increases aeration and fertility.

If you are a home composter, you know that the huge pile you start with will reduce to about one-quarter of its volume through decomposition. Somehow you never seem to make enough. Leafgro® can make up the difference between how much you have and how much you need. By purchasing Leafgro®, you return Maryland-grown organic matter to Maryland soils, where it belongs.

For a list of retail dealers, call MES at 1-888-A1H-UMUS (241-8687).

Behind the Scenes 2001

(Continued from page 1)

tions, civic organizations, and other citizens' groups are particularly invited to attend and to share their learning with their group's membership.

This course originated in the annual training for prospective Master Recycler/Composter volunteers. Because participants were so appreciative of the understanding they gained, the course is now offered to a much broader audience. *Recycler* readers are encouraged to spread the word "early and often!"

Preregistration is required. For more information, please contact Susanne Brunhart Wiggins at 240-777-6461 or susanne.wiggins@co.mo.md.us.

Or visit <http://www.mcrecycles.org/bts>, where you may also register on-line.



Consider Composting

(Continued from page 1)



post in 14 days; however, a compromise between Man's impatience and Nature's infinite patience seems more reasonable. You can assist Nature in every way possible, but if you let it ultimately take its course, you will be rewarded well enough.

One of the tricks to composting is easily mastered once you know where to find greens when you have too many browns and vice versa. Green grass is available in spring and summer, but not as much in the fall. When you are short of green grass, substitute cow or horse manure, dead plants, or even coffee grounds. Fall leaves and dead

plant matter is available in limited quantities for a few months at the end of each year. When you need browns, a bale of hay or straw, shredded newspaper, or chipped brush (fresh mulch) will help balance the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio in your compost pile. Many fine books on composting are available.

Also, Master Composters associated with our program are passionate about composting and will gladly offer advice to beginners and help solve problems for anyone. They can be reached by calling the Master Recycler/Composter Volunteer Program at 301-840-2852. But be forewarned: Once you start making compost, you may never want to stop. I know of Master Composters who actively monitor their piles, taking their temperatures, and keeping records. I also know composters who do nothing more than let Nature take its course and make compost with the assistance of rain, snow, heat, cold, and time.

The nice thing about composting is that if you work hard at it, add the right things, shred everything you put in it, keep it moist, and turn your pile frequently, you will have a finished product ready to use in a short time. Then again, if you leave it alone and do nothing special, you will wind up with the same product eventually. This is the beauty of composting. Watching your flowers, vegetables, and new plantings of trees and shrubs thrive because you've provided them with nutrient-rich humus is the joy of composting.

Chipped Brush as Mulch

The following was reprinted with permission from the Cooperative Extension Service - University of Maryland.

Chipped Brush as a Mulch
by Ennis Dodd
January 1992

Ornamental plants can benefit from a mulch of slowly decomposing, composted wood chips or chipped brush. Properly applied, a composted wood chip mulch will retard or prevent weed growth, conserve soil moisture, and insulate from damaging soil temperature fluctuations.

Fresh Wood Chips

Fresh wood chips have a high carbon-to-nitrogen ratio. Therefore, in the normal decomposition process of wood chips, microbes will "rob" the soil of available nitrogen. The result is poor plant growth and pale green leaves.

One may overcome this problem with timely applications of nitrogen fertilizer or high nitrogen organic sources, i.e., organic materials which contain at least 2 percent nitrogen (e.g., manure, fish meal, fresh grass clippings, etc.).

Composted Wood Chips

The best way to use wood chips for mulch or as a soil amendment is to compost the wood chips with an equal amount of a high-nitrogen material (2 percent) such as fresh grass clippings or by adding 5 lbs. of urea per cubic yard of wood chips. If the compost heap is not turned over on a regular basis the amended wood chips should be aged for one year. Wood chips composted without nitrogen amendments must be aged for three years!

A nice composted mulch product can be obtained in 2-1/2 to 3 months if the chips are amended with nitrogen and then turned over

every week for the first month and every two weeks thereafter. The composting process also requires adequate moisture, so water should be added to the compost heap when necessary.

The Alcohol Hazard

Wood chips are often obtained from storage piles that are greater than 4 to 6 feet high and 12 to 14 feet wide. These large piles are anaerobic near the bottom which allows microbial wood alcohol production. Alcohol-laden wood chips can kill leaves by removing the green pigmentation. They also can cause wilt of shallow rooted plants by injuring or killing the surface roots.

If alcohol-laden wood chips are obtained, spread the material in a layer 10 to 12 inches deep over a driveway, etc., to al-

(Continued on Page 6)

Vermiculture 101

Some people don't like worms. Others appreciate their contribution to life on Earth. Not all of the creatures we call "worms" are really worms. This has given them a bad name, as in the expression "The worms crawl in and the worms crawl out..." Maggots, which are the larvae of flies, are the creatures that consume dead animals and reduce them to skeletons. Earthworms do not because they eat only rotting vegetable matter. They are also not parasitic or disease carrying, as are nematodes.

The red wigglers that are used in indoor vermicomposting are from the tropics, where they are active all year and do not hibernate, as opposed to the nightcrawlers and other worms that live in our yards. *Eisenia fetida* (the red wiggler) is especially adaptable to life in a container kept inside a house. They like temperatures that we like, about 55 to 85° F. They can thrive outdoors during a Maryland summer. And they have been known to survive a mild winter if the bin they are in is buried, thereby insulating it from freezing. They can also survive the winter outdoors if the compost bin in which they live is warm enough because of bacterial decomposition of the organic matter on which they feed. Still, it is a lot to expect a tropical worm to do its best when the temperature is extremely hot or cold.

Some people may not like the idea of having a bin full of worms and rotting vegetable matter in their kitchen or basement or even their garage. However, an active established worm bin does not smell offensive. Also, if given enough food and a moist, but not wet, environment, the worms will have no reason to try to leave the bin. Worms can eat their weight in food a day and excrete their weight a day. It is their excrement, called "castings," that make them valuable contributors to gardening. Their castings are excellent fertilizer for houseplants or garden plants. Their manure does not have the fire of cow or horse manure. Used reasonably, earthworm castings can be added to soil or made into a compost tea that will do considerable good. Worm castings are sold through retail gardening supply catalogs for \$5 a pound. Red wigglers themselves fetch up to \$15 or more a pound, with about 1,000 worms making up a pound.

To set up a worm bin, you do not need a fancy, commercially sold container. A plastic storage bin will work just fine. Worms can also be raised in clean 5-gallon paint buckets or homemade wooden bins. Their bins do not necessarily need elaborate air-venting systems. However, you do need to give them access to fresh air by either drilling holes into the container or by opening the lid regularly to freshen the air inside. The worms prefer a dark environment, but will seek the shade found within food scraps and their own castings if necessary. Their food must be given time to decay as the worms consume the mold, bacteria, and fungus that grow on the decaying organic matter. Because they have no teeth to chew raw food, a steady supply of decaying food must be provided. A quick recipe for worm food is to take organic matter, freeze it, and then thaw it in boiling water. This breaks down the cellulose and enables the organic matter to begin bacterial decomposition sooner.

Bedding in the form of torn newspaper or shredded cardboard will give them access to "higher ground" within the accumulated castings. (While the castings are great

for plants, they can be toxic to the worms themselves.) The bedding, largely cellulose, is also an edible product for them should their food become scarce. Once or twice a year, the worms need to be separated from their castings. This is a hands-on, intimate association for the worm composter and his or her subjects. It is not unpleasant but is sometimes time-consuming. It is, however, essential to the health of the population. The result of cleaning a worm bin is to have instantly usable fertilizer and a clean environment for the worms.

Mary Applehof's book, *Worms Eat My Garbage*, is an excellent source of information about vermiculture. Although not quoted directly, a lot of the information in this article was learned through her research and writings. *Worm Digest* is a quarterly magazine that provides great amounts of information to readers. These two sources and the teachings of experienced vermiculturists have provided information that has been used in this article and in the successful maintenance of worm populations at work and at home. Also, numerous Websites found on the Internet are devoted to vermiculture.

Color Me Confused

Just when you think the world might be coming to its senses, something comes along which reminds you just how crazy we can be. According to an article entitled "Colored Mulch Takes Root" in the April 2000 issue of *Resource Recycling* magazine, colored mulch is a hot new trend in landscaping.

Got a sea foam green beach house? Now you can have sea foam green mulch around your garden plants. Got a copper colored office building, a white marble monument, or a vacation cottage with redwood siding? Got a blue restaurant with an orange roof? Now your mulch can be custom tinted. Natural organic shades are the most popular, and the colored green, tan, brown, or gray earthtones hold their color for a couple of years. But even if you choose blue or burgundy, colored mulch does not fade the way the naturally colored product can.

Most colored mulch is made of shredded pallet wood. The pallet wood takes a waste product and produces a mulch of low moisture and low nutrient value, which is less attractive to insects. Where will this lead? Will Washington D.C. use stripes of red and white along with fields of blue mulch? Will New York's Central Park mulch with candy apple red? What color will they use in Greensboro, South Carolina, White Plains, New York, and Yellowstone Park in Wyoming? Will the trees of the purple mountains majesty be mulched with violet wood shreds? We shall see - because this idea absolutely has to LOOK better than it sounds.

Chipped Brush as Mulch

(Continued from page 1)

low evaporation. Turning this pile should hasten evaporation. There should be no alcohol odor remaining in the pile before using the material as a mulch. Unfortunately, alcohol absorbed into the wood chips will give them a very acidic pH of 3.0. Therefore, the safest procedure is to compost these wood chips for 2-1/2 to 3 months as described above. The compost pile should be turned over in a timely fashion to discourage further alcohol production.

Timing of Application

Mulches should be applied around ornamental plants immediately after planting to increase the odds of successful establishment. As a rule, established woody or perennial plants may be mulched at any time of the year except fall. In the fall, mulching should be delayed until after the ground has frozen in order to prevent frost heaving and enhance winter survival. Wood chip mulches should not be applied in vegetable or flower gardens until the soil has warmed, normally June 1st to June 15th.

Depth and Placement of Mulch

Wood chip mulch should not be deeper than 2 inches after settling, and it should be kept away from the proximate area of the stems. Excessively deep mulch can create a perched table of water above the soil suffocating the roots. Mulch piled around the stems of plants can promote stem cankers or crown rot on many ornamentals. When applying new mulch onto existing mulch, incorporate the existing mulch into the soil with a hard rake first. Additions to existing mulch are often unnecessary since the existing mulch need only be fluffed with a rake to reactivate. It is the trapped air contained by a fluffed mulch that prevents mulch from becoming "soil," insulates against temperature fluctuations, and discourages weed growth.

Literature Cited:

Gouin, Francis R. 1980. "Mulches for the Home Garden." The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, Department of Horticulture Fact Sheet HE 73-80.

Gouin, Francis R. "Mulches Piled Higher and Deeper." Department of Horticulture, the University of Maryland. A Memorandum, 2 pp.

Thank You, Volunteers

The MR/C Volunteer Program appreciates the many hours of assistance we receive from our volunteers. November and December activities included:

Household Hazardous Waste collection at the Transfer Station was assisted by **Bob Mabie, Joe Connor, and Byron Spurr**. Computer recycling was held the following weekend with **Bill Castner, Suzanne Cassidy, and Hubbard Hoyt** helping out. HHW collection at Briggs Chaney was a very successful event with a record setting attendance. Our volunteers were **Georgene Ammon, Carol Sippel, Dick Meyer, Phil Browne and Laura Weiner**.

The following day was America Recycles Day at the Recycling Center. **Phil Browne** attended and spoke to interested folks about composting at our new compost demonstration site. Master Composters **Ralph Holtz and Paul Crumrine** also represented composting. **Bob and Suzanne Browning** were there to talk about worm composting. Master Recyclers **Esther Foxe, Tony Cammarota and Nancy Burkhart** informed visitors about recycling inside the MRF. **Susanne Brunhart Wiggins and Caroline and Sarah Levenson** demonstrated papermaking. **Sara Zavala** and her son **Andres** operated the elevator for disabled visitors. **Bob Mabie** helped direct traffic. Other hard working volunteers included **Kimberly Adams and Betty Wells**. **Hilary Matthews** brought two co-workers, **Palani Sakthival and Aseem Srivastava**, whose services were greatly appreciated. Girl Scouts were everywhere and their enthusiasm was contagious. **Cindy Snow and Kathy Spencer** brought four girls from Troop # 4448. They were **Eileen Keller, Kim Szwec, Emily Spencer and Susan Snow**. **Tamsen Sweigart and K. Schneble** brought five scouts from Troop #2456. **S. Schneble, N. McGugan, C. Sweigart, A. Paunil, and G. Waldron** helped explain the process of sorting commingled recyclables from the viewing area along the catwalk. One of these scouts and a cub scout from Pack # 1444, **D. Sweigart**, did a wonderful job demonstrating papermaking. **Mary Willett and Bonnie Sellers** did a terrific job taking charge of the catwalk area with scouts **A.**

Steele, C. Steele, M. Kimm, K. Guerrero, W. Willett, H. Tenly, S. Chin, and C. Danahy. Two of these fine young ladies played Digger the Worm all day! **Joan Kimm, Sandra Chin, and Chuck Willett** also supervised the scouts.

Two tours of Office Paper Systems were held at the end of November. Attending were **Sara Zavala, Miguel Aliaga, Jorge Aliaga, Ron Milberg, Robbie Milberg, Caroline Levenson, Sarah Levenson, Steve Albright, Ida Wallenmeyer, Kristie Welch, Carol Uhlendorf, John Lindt, Nancy Burkhart, Joe Connor, Jean Goertour, Bob Mabie and Claire Agoglia**.

In December, in the Silver Spring Holiday Parade, an audience estimated at 9,000 viewed the Recyclemobile, Digger and a Christmas Tree decorated with used CDs. Special thanks to **Gail Shultie** for being Digger. **Steven Shultie** assisted, as did **Susanne Wiggins**. **Joe O'Donnell and Dicky Buss** drove vehicles for us. The Household Hazardous Waste collection held the following day at the Transfer Station was very cold, but **Steve Albright, Bob Mabie, Joe Connor, and new volunteers Marge Holmes, Madeline McGaughan and Michael McGaughan** persevered. **Ami Ringold** was on hand researching a paper on HHW, but we put her to work anyway.

Overall we have been very lucky this year, as many of our events, especially collections, are held outdoors. The weather has been wonderful. The only truly miserable day we encountered was our last computer collection. Thanks to **Magda Jean-Louis, Bill Castner, Daniel Vlachich, Jeff Gindes, Madeline and Michael McGaughan, and new volunteers Kayla Richmond and Felicia Case** for helping despite the sleet that fell that cold day. Theirs is the spirit of volunteerism that continues to impress and encourage others. And thanks to Kayla's mom for bringing sodas for everybody. **Carol Uhlendorf and Eleanor Jones** helped call service stations about recycling oil and antifreeze.

Somehow, we missed thanking **John Kough** for his help at the HHW collection at NIH last October. Thanks John! And last but not least, **Diane Rienke** spent many hours editing articles for this newsletter. Our respect for her talents and appreciation for her time can hardly be shown through a modest thank you. Here's hoping you'll put up with us for another year, Diane.

Recycling References

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION

16101 Frederick Rd., Derwood 301-840-2370
(Route 355 & Shady Grove Rd.)

PUBLIC UNLOADING FACILITY

Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.;
Saturday, 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Truck Hours, Monday - Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Use Shady Grove Truck Entrance if you are dropping off materials in a truck.)

Accepts mixed glass bottles and jars, cans, and all plastic bottles with necks, all paper, all cardboard, antifreeze, waste oil, auto batteries, tires, and yard trim. Chipped brush mulch is available at no charge.

DON'T DUMP, DONATE!

Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(Use Shady Grove Truck Entrance.)

Accepts unused or used building materials in usable condition, such as: lumber, cinderblocks, wood, lights, flooring, plumbing fixtures, cabinets, toilets, tubs, doors - everything, including the kitchen sink.

CLOTHING & TEXTILE RECYCLING

At Public Unloading Facility
Accepts clothes, drapes, shoes, towels, sheets, belts, handbags, and material larger than 15" x 15" in area. Clothing & textiles must be clean, dry and in plastic bags.

MATRESSCYCLE

At Public Unloading Facility
Accepts mattresses and box springs.

The Salvation Army also recycles mattresses at the following locations every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

LITTLE FALLS MALL, Sangamore Rd. and Sentinel Dr., Bethesda
GERMANTOWN COMMONS PLAZA, Middlebrook Rd. off of

Route 118, Germantown

CABIN JOHN MALL, Tuckerman Ln. and Seven Locks Rd., Bethesda

LARGE APPLIANCE RECYCLING

Monday - Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Use Shady Grove Truck Entrance);
Monday - Friday, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. (Use public entrance off Route 355); Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Use public entrance off Route 355)
Accepts refrigerators, freezers, hot water heaters, window air conditioning units and dehumidifiers.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

All sites operate from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

There will not be any collections for the months of January and February. Collections will resume in March 2001.

Sunday, March 11 Shady Grove Transfer Station

Accepts insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers, paint thinners and solvents, pool chemicals, fuels, oil, photographic chemicals, oil-based paints, button and rechargeable batteries, fluorescent bulbs (limit of 12 bulbs).

FURNITURE

The Housing Opportunities Commission will pick up any reusable furniture item in good condition, such as tables, chairs, sofas, beds, mattresses, and box springs. To arrange for pick up, please call 301-495-0983.

SPECIAL DROP-OFFS

ROCKVILLE AREA

Montgomery Scrap Corporation 301-424-3000
15000 Southlawn Lane
Buys back aluminum cans, scrap metal, other metals, and accepts appliances.

Georgetown Paper Stock of Rockville 301-762-6990
14818 Southlawn Lane
Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Buys back aluminum cans in 10 lb. loads, white office paper and computer paper in 100 lb. loads (no newspaper) and accepts corrugated cardboard, mixed paper and paperboard.

SILVER SPRING AREA

Southeast Recycling Corp. 301-589-4002
9001 Brookville Road
Accepts newspapers, magazines and catalogs, telephone books, corrugated cardboard and cereal boxes.

GAITHERSBURG AREA

The City of Gaithersburg provides mixed paper and corrugated cardboard recycling for its residents. Call the Public Works Department at 301-258-6370 for more information.

Office Paper Systems 301-948-6301
7650 Airpark Road
Drop-off bin available 24 hours.
Accepts all types of paper ("any thing that tears").

WHITE OAK AREA

White Oak Boy Scout Troop 1086 301-622-1273
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 11612 New Hampshire Avenue
Fourth Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. *Accepts newspaper.*

COLLEGE PARK AREA

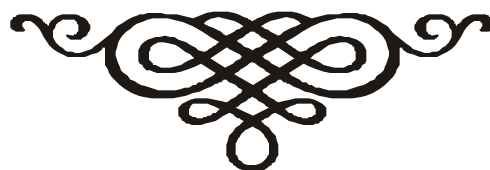
University of Maryland Recycling Center 301-314-8345
Lot 4A on Paint Branch Drive (near the intersection of Metzert Rd. and University Blvd.) Open 24 hours a day.
Accepts white, colored, office and computer paper, corrugated and glossy cardboard, magazines, glass, aluminum cans, newspaper, clothing, telephone books, scrap metal, textbooks, aluminum foil, catalogs, and steel cans.

DAMASCUS AREA

St. Paul's Catholic Church 301-253-2027
9240 Damascus Road, Open 24 hours
Accepts newspaper in bin behind church.

POOLESVILLE AREA

Highway Services Depot, Jerusalem Road 240-777-7623
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Accepts used motor oil and antifreeze (up to 5 gallons of each).



Master Recycler/Composter Volunteer Program
16101 Frederick Road
Derwood, Maryland 20855

MONTGOMERY
COUNTY
RECYCLES



Return Service Requested

Bulk rate U.S. Postage PAID Rockville, MD Permit No. 138
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Calendar of Events

For more information about any of these opportunities, please contact the MR/C Volunteer Program at 301-840-2852, or MRC@windsor.com. Visit www.MCRecycles.org/volunteer for the most current calendar.

TOURS SCHEDULED - Office Paper Systems - Wednesday, January 31, 2001, 10:00 a.m. (see News Briefs article on page 2).

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS

This activity is approved for Student Service Learning. Collection volunteers direct traffic and hand out literature. Two shifts: 9:30 a.m. to Noon and 11:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Each site operates from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. See dates on page 7. This is a wonderful group activity. Please help us spread the word.

BEHIND THE SCENES - (see article on page 1)

This will be held every Thursday, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. from March 1st. through April 5th., 2001